AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A stretched-formed multilayer container having excellent oxygen-gas barrier properties formed by stretching a multilayer sheet or a multilayer preform at an area draw ratio of 1.1 to 100 times, said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform comprising:

a layer (a) made of a thermoplastic resin (A); and

at least one layer unit of a (bc)/(de) layer unit or a (de)/(bc) layer unit which is arranged on at least one surface of layer (a) with or without an adhesive backing, said (bc)/(de) layer unit or said (de)/(bc) layer unit consisting of:

a layer (bc) made of a mixture of a polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) and a plasticiser (C); and

a layer (de) made of a mixture of a bivalent metal compound (D) and a resin (E), said layer (bc) and said layer (de) being adjacent to each other,

said layer (bc) and said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform ~~being formed without~~ having not been subjected to a heating operation that facilitates esterification between hydroxyl groups of the plasticiser (C) and carboxyl groups of the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) in the layer (bc), and

said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform containing a bivalent metal compound (D) so that the chemical equivalent of a bivalent metal in the total amount (Dt) of the bivalent metal compound (D) is 0.2 or more relative to the total amount (Bt) of carboxyl groups contained in the layers (bc) and (de).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The stretched-formed multilayer container according to claim 1, containing at least one a (de)/(bc)/(de) layer unit, which has the layer (bc) and the layer (de) adjacent to each other.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The stretched-formed multilayer container according to claim 1, wherein the mixing ratio between the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) and the plasticiser (C) is 85/15 to 99.9/0.1 (mass ratio).

7. (Original) The stretched-formed multilayer container according to claim 1, wherein the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) has an oxygen permeability coefficient of 1,000 cm^3 (STP)·μm/(m^2·day·MPa) or less at 30°C and relative humidity of 0% when formed into a film by itself.

8. (Original) The stretched-formed multilayer container according to claim 1, wherein the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) is a homopolymer, a copolymer and/or a mixture thereof, the homopolymer and the copolymer consisting of at least one of polymerizable monomer units selected from acrylic acid, maleic acid and methacrylic acid.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The stretched-formed multilayer container according to.claim 1, which is used for boiling or retort sterilization.

11. (Original) A multilayer preform used for the stretched-formed multilayer container according to claim 1.

12. (Original) A multilayer sheet used for the stretched-formed multilayer container according to claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A production method of a stretch-formed multilayer container having excellent oxygen-gas barrier properties, comprising:

providing a multilayer sheet or a multilayer preform obtained by coating at least one a (bc)/(de) layer unit or a (de)/(bc) layer unit on a layer (a) made of a thermoplastic resin (A), said (bc)/(de) layer unit or said (de)/(bc) layer unit consisting of a layer (bc) made of a mixture of a polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) and a plasticiser (C) and a layer (de) made of a mixture of a multivalent metal compound (D) and a resin (E), said layer (bc) and said layer (de) adjacent to each other, said layer (bc) and said stretch-formed multilayer container being formed without a heating operation that facilitates esterification between hydroxyl groups of the plasticiser (C) and carboxyl groups of the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) in the layer (bc); and

stretching said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform at an area draw ratio of 1.1 to 100 times.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The production method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of a (de)/(bc)/(de) layer unit, which has the layer (bc) and the layer (de) adjacent to each other, is provided.

16. (Original) The production method according to claim 13, wherein in all of the layer (bc) and the layer (de), the chemical equivalent of the multivalent metal in the total amount (Dt) of the multivalent metal compound (D) is 0.2 or more relative to the total amount (Bt) of carboxyl groups contained in the layer (bc) and the layer (de).

17. (Previously Presented) The production method according to claim 13, wherein the mixing ratio between the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) and the plasticiser (C) is 85/15 to 99.9/0.1 (mass ratio).

18. (Original) The production method according to claim 13, wherein the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) has an oxygen permeability coefficient of 1,000 cm^3 (STP)·μm/(m^2·day·MPa) or less at 30°C. and relative humidity of 0% when formed into a film by itself.

19. (Original) The production method according to claim 13, wherein the polycarboxylic acid-based polymer (B) is a homopolymer, a copolymer and/or a mixture thereof, the homopolymer and the copolymer consisting of at least one of polymerizable monomer units selected from acrylic acid, maleic acid and methacrylic acid.

20. (Original) The production method according to claim 13, wherein the multivalent metal compound (D) is a bivalent metal compound.

21. (Previously Presented) The production method according to claim 13, wherein said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform is stretched at an area draw ratio of 1.1 to 50 times without concurrent heat treatment.

22. (Previously Presented) The production method according to claim 21, wherein said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform is stretched at an area draw ratio of 1.1 to 25 times without concurrent heat treatment.

23. (Previously Presented) The production method according to claim 22, wherein said multilayer sheet or said multilayer preform is stretched at an area draw ratio of 1.1 to 5 times without concurrent heat treatment.